

PLANTER'S HOTEL/DOCK STREET THEATRE

Planter's Hotel, 1809; remodelled, 1855; Dock Street Theatre, 1937
135 Church Street

The Planter's Hotel was located on this site in 1809 by Alexander Calder and his wife. Calder incorporated the collection of buildings already on the site into his new hotel. The building not only incorporates various earlier buildings, but also includes a collection of minor nineteenth century changes, the most significant of which is the entry porch. The mid-nineteenth century entry porch and balcony above was probably added by J. W. Gamble. The porch features unusual banded brownstone columns topped with heavily carved wooden brackets.

By the early twentieth century, the building had fallen into a derelict condition and was described as a "cheap tenement." In 1935, the City of Charleston restored the building as a Works Progress Administration project. The new theatre was named for the eighteenth century theatre on the Queen Street side of the property. Queen Street was then called Dock Street. The 1935 project was the reconstruction of an eighteenth century theatre interior. The upstairs reception rooms were adorned with the plaster and woodwork from the Thomas Radcliffe House, on the corner of George and Meeting, which was demolished in 1935.



Planter's Hotel, c. 1905 before its period of disuse and eventual rehabilitation as the Dock Street Theater, South Carolina Historical Society